

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABIDJA 10563 091010Z

11
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /026 W
----- 024132

R 090852Z NOV 76
FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 887
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGUI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, CT, IV
SUBJECT: CAR PRESIDENT BOKASSA IN IVORY COAST

1. BOKASSA ARRIVED IN IVORY COAST NOVEMBER 7, FLYING DIRECTLY TO YAMOUSSOUKRO, PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET'S HOME TOWN. HE WAS MET PERSONALLY BY HOUPHOUET, AND RECEIVED CUSTOMARY WELCOME FROM CROWDS OF DANCERS, DRUMMERS, ETC. IN ARRIVAL AND PRESS STATEMENTS BOKASSA MADE MUCH OF "FAMILY" RELATIONSHIP WITH HOUPHOUET, WHOM HE CONSIDERED HIS "SPIRITUAL FATHER." BOKASSA SAID HE HAD BEEN UNABLE MAKE WHAT HE HOPED WOULD BE ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE LAST FEBRUARY, BECAUSE OF ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT. HE HAD COME TO IVORY COAST NOW TO THANK HOUPHOUET FOR HIS SUPPORT, TO COMFORT HIM AFTER THE SEVERAL PERSONAL LOSSES HE HAD SUFFERED (REFERRING TO DEATH OF HOUPHOUET'S SISTER-IN-LAW LAST AUGUST) AND TO SEEK GUIDANCE ON HOW BEST TO DISCHARGE HIS (BOKASSA'S) DUTIES AS HEAD OF STATE.

2. PRESS COVERAGE HAS BEEN VERY HEAVY AND LAUDATORY BUT ON OCCASION ALMOST IRONIC. LIST OF BOKASSA'S DECORATIONS INCLUDE ORDER OF INTERNATIONAL CHEVALIERS OF PHILATELY. BOKASSA DESCRIBED AS ACTING AND SPEAKING LIKE A SOLDIER "BUT HOWEVER GREAT HIS DESIRE TO PLEASE HE PREFERS TO BE OBEYED." "HIS BRUSQUENESS IS DIS-
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CONCERTING BUT HIS GENEROSITY OFTEN SHINES THROUGH."

IRONY IS NOT USUAL CHARACTERISTIC OF FRATERNITE MATIN,
THE GOIC CONTROLLED DAILY, AND TREATMENT OF BOKASSA HAS
AROUSED COMMENT, AS LEAST AMONG DIP CORPS. BOKASSA
SCHEDULED RETURN TO CAR NOVEMBER 9.
STEARNS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
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Draft Date: 09 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760417-0138
From: ABIDJAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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TAGS: PFOR, CT, IV, (BOKASSA, JEAN-BEDEL), (HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY, FELIX)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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